

# Michigan Women

A Publication  
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Michigan  
Women's  
Commission

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## Michigan Stalking Laws Upheld

The Michigan Women's Commission applauds the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals for their recent reversal of the lower court's unfounded ruling that Michigan stalking laws are unconstitutional.

In July 2000, Judge Richard Enslen, U.S. District Court, ruled the 1993 anti-stalking law in Michigan that protects victims, mainly women, from predators was unconstitutional. Ironically, the statute served as a model for stalking legislation in states across the

country, and the impact of this decision would be far reaching. This decision could have threatened Michigan's reputation of incarcerating criminals who pose a threat to Michigan citizens, and most importantly, endangered many stalking victims.

On February 5, 2001, the U.S. District Court of Appeals overturned the decision, ruling in favor of stalking victims. The Court upheld the Michigan statute, providing Michigan citizens protection from dangerous stalkers.

Concerned about the rights of stalking victims, the Michigan Women's Commission has kept a close eye on the proceedings of this case. By upholding the Michigan statute, the Court is sending a clear message to offenders that the rights of innocent victims are considered more important than those of convicted criminals. The Michigan Women's Commission is pleased Governor Engler has



Anne Norlander, Chairwoman

taken the lead nationally by signing progressive anti-stalking legislation, protecting women, men, and children from predators.

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# From the desk of the Director...

In honor and celebration of Women's History Month and Black History Month, I am presenting in this article some of the many outstanding African-American women of Michigan who helped forge the way for women. I hope you enjoy reading about these women and share this information with others.

## Dauris Gwendolyn Jackson

A graduate of Wayne State University, she was the first African-American woman to be elected to its Board of Governors, as well as the first to be elected to any Michigan university. She served as coordinator of University Cooperative Relations in Staff Development for Teacher Training and was chosen by a textbook publisher as one of ten

authors nationally to initiate its first multi-racial textbooks, Basics in Reading.

## Looney Clinton Gordon

Thwarted in her desire to become a dietician, she began work with two women doctors in research which led to a vaccine effective in preventing whooping cough.

## Carrie Frazier-Brown

Fearless champion for a compassionate and modern medical care, she helped found a free community clinic within the Pontiac General Hospital, and was named 1996 Nurse of the Year by the National Black Nurses Association.

## Isabella Baumfree/ Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth was born in upstate New York in 1797 and spent the last thirty years of her life in Battle Creek, Michigan. A former slave, she became a nationally known crusader for abolition and women's rights. In 1864 she went to Washington D.C. where she helped integrate streetcars and was received by President Abraham Lincoln. She was known for her fervor and personal magnetism which drew crowds wherever she spoke.

## Martha Jean "The Queen" Steinberg

A popular radio personality and activist, she was recognized for her activism by the NAACP,



**Martha Truscott**  
Executive Director

inducted into the Black Women's Hall of Fame and earned eleven Keys to the City in five cities across the nation.

Information courtesy of the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

## National Women's History Month Special Event

*Saturday, March 31, 2001*

*During this interactive program at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, girls will explore the lives of Michigan women who made a positive difference in all our lives. They will meet a suffragist from the era of Samantha and her Aunt Cordelia of the American Girl Series and find out how women got the "right to vote." Ages 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grades. Call the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame at 517-484-1880 or 517-372-9772 for more information and to make reservations.*

# Commissioner's Corner...

## The Mother World

By: Commissioner Carolyn Spencer

**H**ello from the mother world—a world like no other. A love like nothing I knew before, a joy that is impossible to explain. What a wonderful thing to be blessed with children and the mystery of motherhood. Yet, I remember my life before I embarked on this journey. It too was fulfilling and joyous. I remember thinking for myself and about myself. I remember the challenges at work, the excitement of exceeding expectations, reaching goals and the feeling of accomplishment. So how does a woman get the best of both worlds?

“Working moms” often feel the guilt that they are not there enough physically and/or emotionally for their children, yet many prefer to work. “Stay at home moms” often feel a sense of guilt for not working in the year 2001, wondering what kind of example are they for their daughters.

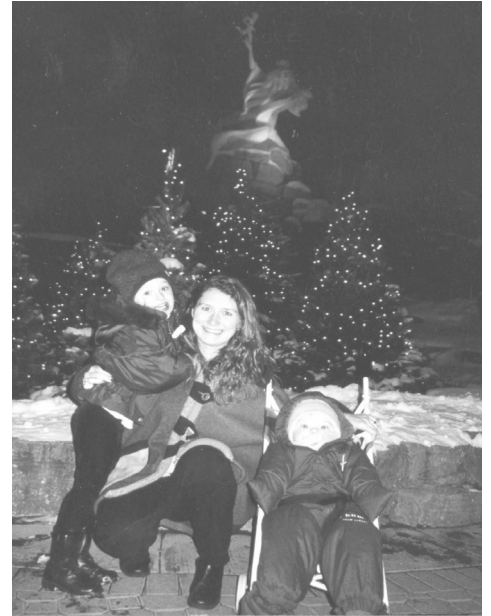
**Remember  
Your Mother  
Every Day!**

**May 13th is  
Mother's Day**

There is no room for guilt in this lifetime. I realize so many factors come into this discussion, many women have to work to survive, many are single moms and many are very happy with the decision they have made, “working mom” or “stay at home mom.” Yet one thing we can do as women to unite is to support each other’s decisions. I have been the “working mom” wondering “what do those women (stay at home moms) do all day?” and I have been the “stay at home mom” thinking every mother needs to spend this time with their children. Now I know this is an individual decision which makes us unique. So enjoy the wonders of motherhood and let us all support each other’s decisions.

*“Technique and ability alone do not get you to the top it is the willpower that is the most important. This willpower you cannot buy with money or be given by others—it rises from your heart.”*

*-Junko Tabei, of Japan, after becoming the first woman to climb Everest, in 1975*



**Commissioner Carolyn Spencer  
with her children Mitchell (1yr)  
& Jasiah (4yrs)**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW UPDATE

**R**ecently, the Michigan Legislature passed a bill requiring health care workers to report violent injuries to the police. This bill, signed by Governor Engler, requires all health care workers, including hospitals, surgeons, physicians, and pharmacies, to report any wounds or injuries that were inflicted by a knife, gun, pistol, or any other deadly weapon. The purpose of such legislation is to help continue the battle against domestic violence by requiring health care providers to report suspicious injuries. The reporting health care worker must file a telephone and written report immediately to the head of the local police department. The report must include the name, residence, and injury information of the patient, and if possible, the identity of the perpetrator.

Under this statute, the health care worker is not subject to the physician/patient privilege act and can be charged with a misdemeanor for failing to report cases of violence with a deadly weapon. Health care workers will be protected from retaliatory civil or criminal procedures if the reporter acted in good faith with clear evidence of violence.

# Breast & Cervical Cancer Program

**B**reast and cervical cancer is a concern for women of all ages, races, and ethnicities. Early detection increases treatment success and the rate of survival. Many women face income and insurance obstacles, preventing them from receiving proper cancer screenings for early detection.

But, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is now offering a program called the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), that provides cancer screenings to low-income women who are uninsured, underinsured or not eligible for Medicaid and who meet the criteria of the program.

The NBCCEDP has provided over 2 million cancer screenings over the years to uninsured and

underinsured women. Michigan's NBCCEDP has performed over 63,000 mammograms and Pap tests for women. In 1999, over 18,000 women were screened for cancer, and over 100 were detected to have breast or cervical cancer.

**To find out where you can get a free or low cost mammogram or Pap test in your area, call 1-888-842-6355 (select option 7).**

The NBCCEDP does not include a program for

treatment of the disease after it has been detected, however states will now be able to provide immediate Medicaid coverage to treat low-income women who have been diagnosed through the NBCCED Program. This will help increase the early detection and treatment options for disadvantaged women.

We encourage all women to get screened for breast and cervical cancer today!

## Donate A Phone



**C**all To Protect, a division of The Wireless Foundation, is a non-profit organization devoted to providing cellular phones to families experiencing dangerous domestic violence situations. The organization receives wireless phones that are no longer in use and reprograms the phone to call for help at a touch of a button. Call To Protect professionals distribute the wireless phones to victims of domestic violence and/or domestic violence professionals, helping them to stay in contact with the victim.

If you would like to donate a phone or receive more information about the Call To Protect program, please log on to [www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org).



# Upcoming Events

## Take Our Daughters to Work Day

Thursday, April 26, 2001



Take Our Daughters to Work was launched in 1993 by the Ms. Foundation for Women. It responds to the need for encouragement and support for young women and works to inspire girls to take an active interest in the workplace. On Take Our Daughters to Work Day millions of caring adults - mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors - will participate by taking a girl to work.

The YWCA of Greater Lansing will be hosting a luncheon for Take Our Daughters to Work Day at the Lansing Center. Reception at 11:30 and lunch at 12:00 noon. For questions or reservations, call Julie at the YWCA at 517-485-7201.



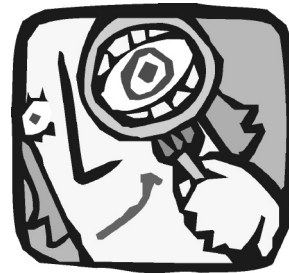
## Michigan Child Care Challenge

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Hosted by the Michigan legislature, the Child Care Challenge showcases companies throughout Michigan that are leaders in providing family friendly benefits to their employees. The Michigan Women's Commission is pleased to be a part of this program as we continue to promote economic self-sufficiency of women.

## The Prosperity Institute For Michigan Women

Friday, June 1, 2001  
Saturday, June 2, 2001



The Prosperity Institute for Michigan Women is a seminar designed to inform and educate women about opportunities for them to develop greater personal financial stability. Co-sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission and the Michigan Department of Treasury with support from the Michigan Department of Career Development, the Prosperity Institute features four tracks: Starting Out and Starting Over, The Building Years, the Sandwich Generation, and Special Circumstances which feature sessions such as Starting Your Own Business in Michigan, What Women Should Know About Long-Term Care, and Advanced Investing: Making the Most from Your Money among others. To be held at the Cobo Center, the Institute will also feature keynote speakers, an exhibit hall, and small group discussions.

# Safe Delivery Program

To end the tragedy of unwanted newborns being hidden and left to die in dumpsters and elsewhere, Michigan lawmakers passed a law to make it legal for a parent to surrender their infant in a safe and anonymous manner. The law allows for unwanted and unharmed newborns up to 72 hours old to be taken to an Emergency Service Provider and left without giving any identifying information. An Emergency Service Provider is a uniformed or otherwise identified employee of a fire department, hospital or police station inside the building and on duty. After a twenty-eight day period in which the parent can petition the court for custody, there will be a hearing to terminate parental rights. There will be a public notice of this hearing, however, the parent will not receive personal notice. The child will then be released to a child-placing agency for adoption into a safe and loving home.

The purpose of this law is to reduce the tragic loss of life when parents of newborns act out of fear and panic. If you would like more information about this program call toll-free: 1-866-733-7733.



Commissioners work with facilitator Nate Lake at the February 6, 2001 planning session.

## Women's Commission Publications



**Club Drugs: What you should know**



**Club Drugs: What you and your kids should know**



**GHB: A vicious scam. A proven killer (For bodybuilders)**



**Methamphetamine**



**Safety tips for you and your family**



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